



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

OCT 7 2002

Dr. Hector J. Lazaneo
Director
Ministerio de Ganaderia, Agricultura y Pesca
Direccion General de Servicios Ganaderos
Division Industria Animal
Constituyente 1476
11200 Montevideo
Uruguay

Dear Dr. Lazaneo:

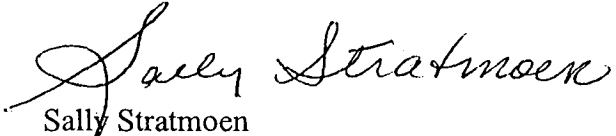
The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has completed an on-site audit of Uruguay's meat inspection system. The audit was conducted from January 15 through February 1, 2002. Enclosed is a copy of the final audit report. Comments from the Government of Uruguay (GOU) have been included as an attachment to the final audit report.

During this audit, the FSIS auditor noted several serious deficiencies, which were discussed with you at the January 31, 2002 exit meeting. In addition, the GOU was advised that the establishments identified as having inadequately implemented Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point systems (8, 12, 14, 87, 135, 199) would be allowed to operate for United States export, but the establishments were expected to correct all applicable deficiencies within 30 days of the auditor's review or be delisted for export to the United States.

We have reviewed your February 28, 2002 letter in which you state that the GOU has taken appropriate corrective actions to address the findings discussed at the exit conference. We have also reviewed your letter of June 25, 2002 in which you set forth the individual corrective actions taken by both the establishments and the inspection service to address the audit findings. FSIS has determined that the corrective actions satisfactorily address the audit deficiencies. FSIS appreciates your prompt and thorough attention to these matters.

If you have any questions regarding the audit or need additional information, please contact me at 202-720-3781. My fax number is 202-690-4040 and my email address is sally.stratmoen@fsis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Stratmoen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sally Stratmoen

Chief

Equivalence Section

Office of International Affairs

Enclosure

cc:

Philip Shull, Counselor, U.S. Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mario Liori, Minister-Counselor, Embassy of Uruguay

Linda Swacina, Associate Administrator, FSIS

Robert Hoff, FAS Area Officer

Sally Stratmoen, Chief, ES, IA

Karen Stuck, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, IA

Donald Smart, Director, Review Staff

Amy Winton, State Department

Maritza Colon-Pullano, SAIFS, IC

Nancy Goodwin, ES, FSIS, IA

Country File (Uruguay—final fy02 to CVO)